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COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT NO. TOPIC Military Information from Dessau-Rosslau

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

25X1C

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 12 December 1953REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

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1. On 9 November 1953, the barracks installation in Rosslau was occupied by about 3,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia. Source learned that units from the installation transferred to Kochstedt.

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On 23 October and 4 November, source determined T-34/85 tanks, JS-2 tanks, 76-mm and 122-mm field guns, and 62-mm and 120-mm mortars in the barracks installation. Only little training activity was observed. Source determined that the returning troops had been detrained at the spur track in the installation.

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2. On 7 November, the barracks installation in Kochstedt was occupied by about 2,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia. Five new quartering buildings which previously housed VP dependents, had been occupied by dependents of Soviet officers. Between 26 October and 7 November, only fatigue duty was observed in the installation.

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3. On 5 November, the cantonment east of Gross Kuehnau and south of Brambach was occupied by only a small guard detail. On 28 October, equipment and boxes were trucked to the barracks installation in Rosslau from the cantonment in Gross Kuehnau.

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

25X1A

25X1C

4. On 16 and 17 October, the water training sites southeast of Rossau, south of Brambach; south of the flax plant and south of Steutz were being vacated. On 20 October, the training sites mentioned had been also vacated from the rear details and were occupied by only small guard details after that date.²
5. On 16 November, the barracks installation in Rossau was occupied by about 3,000 to 3,500 troops. Local residents stated that a laundry located there did the washing for 300 officers. Between 1 and 16 November, training was very little. Troops observed engaged in reconditioning of vehicles, sheds and training installations. Three to 4 trucks, occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and towing 1 to 2 x 57-mm AT guns, left the installation for firing at the Gross Kuehnau training area on 2 to 3 days per week. Reports of AT guns were heard from the training area during daytime. The trucks returned between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. Source determined 15 to 20 tanks in old sheds in the northeast section of the barracks area.

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6. On 16 November, 6 x 37-mm AA guns were observed in the AAA emplacement about 500 meters west of the Elbe Bridge near Elbe kilometer mark 258.2.³
7. On 13 October, the cantonment east of Gross Kuehnau was vacant. The installation was guarded by sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets.
8. On 30 October, the cantonment east of Gross Kuehnau was occupied by only a small rear detail.¹

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1. Comment. [] the barracks installation in Rossau can be carried occupied as previously by the bulk of the 7th Gds Tank Div. The vacation of the cantonment east of Gross Kuehnau has repeatedly been confirmed. The elements of the 7th Gds Tank Div previously stationed there transferred to the barracks installation in Rossau, according to source of paragraph 3 in this report and another source.

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[] Thus, the information that other elements of the division transferred from Rossau to Kochstedt appears credible. Most of the motor vehicles observed on 14 October by source of paragraph 1 belong to the 7th Gds Tank Div. In this connection, mention is made of the statement by a Soviet major of the camp administration who, in August 1953, announced a considerable increase of the occupation strength in the barracks installation in Kochstedt for the fall of 1953. [] The strength figure mentioned in paragraph 2 and the tank insignia observed also indicate that, in addition to elements of the 62d AAA Div (US), elements of the 7th Gds Tank Div are stationed in the barracks installation in Kochstedt.

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2. Comment. The departure from their training sites on the Elbe River of engineer units of the GOFG and the Eighth Gds Army has repeatedly been confirmed.

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3. Comment. The AAA emplacement of the 62d AAA Div (US) is known.

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